

Message Text

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SUBJECT:PRESIDENT PUBLISHES PUBLIC LIST FOR MULTILATERAL
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIA-
TIONS ISSUED TODAY FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE:

1. PRESIDENT FORD TODAY TOOK THE FIRST STEP UNDER THE NEW
TRADE ACT OF 1974 TO LAUNCH UNITED STATES PREPARATIONS FOR
THE "TOKYO ROUND" OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AGREED
TO BY MINISTERS OF MORE THAN 100 NATIONS IN JAPAN LAST FALL.
AMBASSADOR WILLIAM D. EBERLE, THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, ANNOUNCED THAT THE
PRESIDENT HAS PUBLISHED AND SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE
COMMISSION (FORMERLY THE TARIFF COMMISSION) A "PUBLIC LIST"
OF ITEMS ON WHICH TARIFF CONCESSIONS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED
FOR NEGOTIATION BY THE UNITED STATES. THE TRANSMISSION OF
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THIS LIST TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION IS REQUIRED

UNDER THE TRADE ACT, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS IN LATE DECEMBER AND SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 3. THE COMMISSION WILL CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT ON THE PROBABLE ECONOMIC EFFECT ON UNITED STATES INDUSTRIES AND CONSUMERS OF ANY TARIFF CONCESSION ON EACH ITEM ON THE LIST.

2. IN ANNOUNCING THE FORWARDING OF THE PUBLIC LIST TO THE COMMISSION, AMBASSADOR EBERLE NOTED THAT IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT A LIST OF ARTICLES ON WHICH U.S. TRADE NEGOTIATORS WILL MAKE TARIFF CONCESSION OFFERS IN THE MULTILATERAL TALKS. THAT OFFER LIST WILL BE BASED ON THE COMMISSION'S ADVICE, AND THAT OF CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC (INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSUMERS, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, AND LABOR).

3. THE LIST SENT TO THE COMMISSION TODAY INCLUDES ALL IMPORTED ARTICLES IN CHAPTERS 1-7 OF THE TARIFF SCHEDULES OF THE UNITED STATES (TSUS), COVERING ALL ARTICLES OTHER THAN THOSE ON WHICH A HIGHER TEMPORARY RATE OF DUTY HAS BEEN APPLIED AS A RESULT OF "ESCAPE CLAUSE" FINDINGS OF INJURY TO A DOMESTIC INDUSTRY (FOR EXAMPLE, SOME BALL BEARINGS AND DINNERWARE), OR ON NATIONAL SECURITY GROUNDS (E.G., CERTAIN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND DERIVATIVES).

4. UNDER THE NEW TRADE ACT, AS UNDER THE PREDECESSOR TRADE EXPANSION ACT OF 1962 WHICH AUTHORIZED THE "KENNEDY ROUND" OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, THE COMMISSION HAS UP TO SIX MONTHS TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC IMPACT OF POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS, ELIMINATIONS, OR CONTINUANCE OF PRESENT TARIFFS ON THESE ITEMS. THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE SHORTLY THE DATES IT WILL HOLD THE HEARINGS.

5. AMBASSADOR EBERLE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO THE COMMISSION HEARINGS, OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE UPCOMING ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING NONTARIFF AS WELL AS UNCLASSIFIED

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TARIFF BARRIERS TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

6. THE PUBLIC LIST WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S FEDERAL REGISTER. COPIES OF THE LIST ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506. KISSINGER

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